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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-eighth session
First part
Geneva, 23 September 1991
Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD

Annotations to the provisional agenda

At its 788th plenary meeting, on 22 March 1991, the Board approved the provisional agenda for the first part of its thirty-eighth session (TD/B/L.916). The provisional agenda is set out below.

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session;
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials;
   (d) Provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Board

2. Interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system

3. Debt and development problems of developing countries

4. UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to sustainable development (Board decision 384 (XXXVII))

5. Assistance to the Palestinian people (Conference resolutions 146 (VI) and 169 (VII))

6. Preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

7. Other matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies

[To be completed in the light of developments]

8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Economic co-operation among developing countries:

- Financing of South-South trade (paragraph 4 (c) (iii) of resolution 4 (V) of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in accordance with Conference resolution 137 (VI) concerning land-locked developing countries;

(c) Export promotion: report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fourth session;

(d) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-fourth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

[To be completed in the light of developments]

9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

(b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees;

(c) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1992;

(d) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

(e) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

(f) Review of the calendar of meetings;

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report of the Board.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introductory note

The secretariat's annotations are intended to furnish essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

Item 1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

Item 1(a) Election of officers (Rule 19)

The Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members, including 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 members from List B, 2 members from List C and 2 members from List D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

At its 788th plenary meeting, on 22 March 1991, the Board took note that, in accordance with the cycle for the rotation of the Office of President of the Board, the President at the thirty-eighth session should be a representative of one of the States contained in List D in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX). The Board also took note that, in the light of consultations held, and in a spirit of understanding and flexibility, it had been agreed that at the thirty-eighth session of the Board, the Presidency would be assumed by a representative of one of the African States in List A and that at the thirty-ninth regular session, the Office of President would revert to one of the States in List D. The Board further took note that the Rapporteur at the thirty-eighth regular session would be a representative of one of the States in List C.

In the light of the above, the Board designated H.E. Mr. Thomas Ogada (Kenya) as President of the Board at its thirty-eighth session.

Item 1(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session (Rule 12)

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-eighth session was approved by the Board at its 788th plenary meeting on 22 March 1991.

In accordance with past practice, the Board authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with the President, to adjust and complete the provisional agenda in the light of developments. This arrangement was on the understanding that any amendments or additions would be subject to consultations with the representatives of regional groups and interested delegations within the framework of the consultative machinery established by Board decision 143 (XVI) and Board resolution 231 (XXII).

In conformity with the above, any changes or additions will be considered at Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and will be reported to the Board in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/1299	Annotated provisional agenda
TD/B/1299/Add.1	Addendum

Organization of work

As requested by the Board at its 788th plenary meeting on 22 March 1991, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will consult delegations on the organization of work and will circulate his suggestions thereon.

Documentation

TD/B/1299/Add.2	Organization of work

Item 1(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
((Rule 17.2)

"The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board."

in-session documentation

Item 1(d) Provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Board
(Rule 8)

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-eighth regular session (scheduled to be held in the spring of 1992).

in-session documentation

Item 2 INTERDEPENDENCE OF PROBLEMS OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM

The Board has carried out regular reviews of this item since the adoption of its decision 144 (XVI), of 23 October 1976.

In its resolution 44/219, of 22 December 1989, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts made by Governments and the UNCTAD secretariat to strengthen the debates of the Trade and Development Board on interdependence; and in its resolution 45/203, of 21 December 1990, the Assembly noted the contribution made by the Board to the understanding of the interdependence of problems of trade, development finance and the international monetary system, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

Also in its resolution 45/203, the General Assembly welcomed Board resolution 387 (XXXVII), of 17 October 1990, on interdependence, and urged all Governments to give full and prompt effect to the recommendations contained therein. Since the Board might wish to draw on these recommendations, the text of resolution 387 (XXXVII) will be made available in a separate document.

In accordance with the practice instituted at the first part of the thirty-sixth session (as one of the

measures introduced by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to strengthen the Board's regular review of interdependence), provision will be made for informal, off-the-record discussions on interdependence to take place prior to the opening of the general debate on items 2 and 3.

The Trade and Development Report, 1991 is relevant to the Board's consideration of this item.

Documentation

TD/B(XXXVIII)/CRP.1	Text of Board resolution 387 (XXXVII)

Item 3 DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Since the adoption of its resolution 165 (S-IX), of 11 March 1978, the Board has carried out regular reviews of aspects of the debt and development problems of developing countries.

At the first part of its thirty-seventh session, the Board adopted resolution 388 (XXXVII), of 17 October 1990, entitled "Debt and development problems of developing countries" by which, inter alia, it agreed that further action through the international debt strategy is needed to achieve expeditiously durable, equitable and mutually agreed solutions to the problem of indebtedness in each of the countries concerned, with a view to promoting the revival of growth and sustained development in developing countries; and in this context, spelt out a series of measures which would need to be undertaken. To assist the Board, the text of resolution 388 (XXXVII) will be made available in a separate document.

In its resolution 45/203, of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly recognized Board resolution 388 (XXXVII) as part of the continuing contribution of the Trade and Development Board to the search for a durable solution to the problem of the external indebtedness of developing countries.

The Trade and Development Report, 1991 contains material relevant to the Board's consideration of this agenda item. The Board might also wish to draw on the

provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/214, of 21 December 1990, entitled "International debt crisis and development: enhanced international co-operation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries". The text of the resolution will be made available in a separate document.

Documentation

TD/B(XXXVIII)/CRP.1	Text of Board resolution 388 (XXXVII)
	Text of General Assembly resolution 45/214

Item 4 UNCTAD's CONTRIBUTION, WITHIN ITS MANDATE, TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Board decision 384 (XXXVII))

At the second part of its thirty-fifth session, the Board considered a note by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Environment and development: UNCTAD's contribution to the follow-up of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187" (TD/B/1199); and at the first part of its thirty-seventh session (in response to Board decision 370 (XXXV), of 22 March 1989), a report by the UNCTAD secretariat containing an analysis on the interface between sustainable development and the main lines of UNCTAD activities within its mandate (TD/B/1267).

At its forty-fifth session the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/203 entitled "Trade and Development Board", welcomed Board decision 384 (XXXVII) on UNCTAD's contribution, within its mandate, to sustainable development and requested the UNCTAD secretariat to continue to co-operate with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the preparations for the latter Conference. In this context the Assembly also, in resolution 45/210 concerning environment and international trade, requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to prepare a comprehensive analytical study on the present situation and future trends regarding the relation between environmental issues and international trade and to submit it to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its third session. In view of its relevance, that study will also be made available to the Board as background documentation under this item.

In its decision 384 (XXXVII), of 12 October 1990, the Board requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, taking into account studies undertaken in other appropriate forums, to prepare an analysis, if possible for the first part of the thirty-eighth session of the Board, of the issue of sustainable development, in particular the reduction of poverty and its interface with policies and mechanisms in environmentally sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, energy, industry and transport, as well as with relevant structural policies such as those relating to the enterprise sector.

In response to the above, the Board will have before it a report which examines policies and mechanisms for achieving sustainable development, with particular attention to poverty reduction. The application of those policies and mechanisms within some of the sectors mentioned in decision 384 (XXXVII) is examined in detail.

To assist the Board, the text of decision 384 (XXXVII) will be made available in a separate document and, in view of its relevance, the text of General Assembly resolution 45/210 will also be included.

Documentation

TD/B/1304	Analysis of the issue of sustainable development Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD
TD/B(XXXVIII)/CRP.1	Text of Board decision 384 (XXXVII)
	Text of General Assembly resolution 45/210

Background documentation

A/CONF.151/PC/48	Environment and international trade Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Item 5 ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS 146 (VI) AND 169 (VII))

Paragraph 1 of Conference resolution 146 (VI) calls for the Special Economic Unit (Palestinian people) of the UNCTAD secretariat to monitor and investigate the policies and practices of Israeli occupation authorities hampering the economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory. In paragraph 6 of Conference resolution 169 (VII), the UNCTAD secretariat is requested to provide advice on the establishment of a centre for marketing and exporting of Palestinian goods and products. Paragraphs 2 and 10 of the same resolutions, respectively, request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report periodically to the Trade and Development Board and the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of those resolutions.

The Board will have before it a report containing the following two parts:

Part I discusses the policy environment, in the light of prevailing constraints amidst new pressures, including the impact of the Middle East crisis, Israeli measures and Palestinian initiatives, and considers the immediate outlook.

This is followed by an examination of: aggregate economic indicators (GDP, GNP, savings, investment and consumption since 1990); population, labour force and employment; economic performance in selected sectors since 1990 (agriculture and industry, tourism, the monetary and fiscal situation and external trade performance); and highlights the elements of a programme for the immediate revival of the Palestinian economy.

Part II is devoted to a brief review of the work of the Special Economic Unit since the last report to the Board (TD/B/1266), which includes the inter-sectoral study on prospects for sustained development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, being prepared pursuant to Board resolution 239 (XXIII) and General Assembly resolution 44/174.

Documentation

TD/B/1305 Recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territory
Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 6 PREPARATIONS FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

An annotation to this item, taking into account on-going consultations, will be included in an addendum to the present document.

Item 7 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE BOARD ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF ITS SUBSIDIARY AND OTHER BODIES

Annotations to this item will be contained in an addendum to the present document.

Item 8 OTHER MATTERS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Item 8(a) Economic co-operation among developing countries:

- Financing of South-South trade (paragraph 4 (c) (iii) of resolution 4 (V) of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries)

In its resolution 45/203, of 21 December 1990, entitled "Trade and Development Board", the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed support of the efforts of UNCTAD, as the principal organization in the United Nations system dealing with economic co-operation among developing countries, to promote and expand such co-operation.

In paragraph 4 (c) (iii) of resolution 4 (V), of 12 June 1989, the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries called upon the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to undertake, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, a study on the problems of trade financing in developing countries and in particular on how to further support and strengthen existing mechanisms in this area, as well as the feasibility of establishing a

commercially viable interregional mechanism for financing South-South trade in non-traditional exports based on participation from developing countries and with a financial structure based on paid-in capital from participating countries.

In the same resolution, the Committee called for the above study to be submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-seventh session. At its 780th plenary meeting, on 12 October 1990, the Board decided to remit the item to a future session of the Board.

To assist the Board, the secretariat has prepared a policy paper (TD/B/1300) providing an overall examination of the issues involved. It devotes separate chapters to the issue of trade finance in developing countries; the case for an interregional trade financing facility; an elaboration of the salient aspects of the specific proposal advanced for such a facility; and it closes by discussing related issues and making policy recommendations on trade financing.

Documentation

TD/B/1300	Evaluation of performances and issues of trade financing in developing countries: the case for and the viability of an interregional facility Report by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/1300/Supp.1 (English only)	Trade financing in developing countries: an assessment and evaluation of existing schemes and future requirements Study by the UNCTAD secretariat This study surveys the trade finance infrastructure of developing countries, both nationally and regionally, and makes an assessment and evaluation of existing schemes and future requirements.
TD/B/1300/Supp.2 (English only)	Feasibility study for an interregional trade financing facility for the exports of non-traditional goods of developing countries (Study prepared by Multi-national Strategies, Inc. New York in collaboration with the UNCTAD secretariat) This study presents a specific proposal for an interregional facility for non-traditional exports, together with simulations of the impact of changes in the various assumptions posited in the design of the facility and evaluates its financial viability.

Item 8(b) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in accordance with Conference resolution 137 (VI) concerning land-locked developing countries

Pursuant to the provisions of Conference resolution 137 (VI), of 2 July 1983, concerning land-locked developing countries, and General Assembly resolution 39/217, of 18 December 1984, establishing a biennial programme of work for the Second Committee, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD is required to keep under constant review the progress in the implementation of specific action related to the particular needs and problems of the land-locked developing countries and to submit a report every two years to the General Assembly through the Trade and Development Board.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/214, of 22 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to submit to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session a further progress report, taking into account the provisions of resolution 44/214. To assist the Board, the text of that resolution will be made available in a separate document.

The report contains four main parts. Part I discusses the current transit-transport situation in developing countries; Part II makes an analysis of selected key issues underlying the particular constraints facing the land-locked developing countries; Part III makes an assessment of the impact of geographical constraints on the trade performance of land-locked developing countries; and Part IV contains summaries of replies received from Governments, international organizations and intergovernmental organizations on their specific action related to the particular needs and problems of the land-locked developing countries.

Documentation

TD/B/1301	Progress in the implementation of specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD
TD/B(XXXVIII)/CRP.1	Text of General Assembly resolution 44/214

Item 8(c) Export promotion: report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fourth session

The report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fourth session (8-12 April 1991) will be before the Board.

Attention is drawn to the review of ITC's technical co-operation activities in 1990 (paras. 40-86) and to the announcement of trust fund contributions (para. 111).

Documentation

TD/B/1302	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
ITC/AG(XXIV)/128 and Add.1	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fourth session

Item 8(d) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-fourth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law held its twenty-fourth session from 10 to 28 June 1991, in Vienna. Its report will be before the Board, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI).

That resolution also provides that any comments or recommendations which the Board may wish to make on the report shall be transmitted to the General Assembly. Likewise, any suggestions for topics to be included in the work of UNCITRAL, and any other recommendations by the Board relevant to the work of UNCITRAL, shall be transmitted to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/1303	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
A/46/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session

Item 9 INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

Item 9(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

If required, an annotation will be included in an addendum to the present document. The current membership of UNCTAD is 166.

Item 9(b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), the President will inform the Board of any communications received from members of the Conference, indicating their intention to become members of the Board.

Likewise, in accordance with Conference resolution 80 (III), the President will inform the Board of any communications received from States members wishing to become members of one or more of the main Committees.

Present membership is: Trade and Development Board - 130; Committee on Commodities - 106; Committee on Manufactures - 100; Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade - 102; Committee on Shipping - 102; Committee on Transfer of Technology - 98; Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries - 109.

The full membership of the Conference, the Board and the Main Committees is reflected in document TD/B/INF.178/Rev.1.

Item 9(c) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1992

The Working Party consists of 19 members, whose term of office is one year (Board decision 236 (XXIII)). The geographical distribution of posts is as follows:

Lists A and C combined		9
Africa	3	
Asia	3	
Latin America	3	
List B		6
List D		3
China		1

At the first part of its thirty-eighth session, the Board will be expected to establish the membership for 1992.

Item 9(d) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

Any applications received will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Item 9(e) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

An annotation to this item will be included in an addendum to the present document.

Item 9(f) Review of the calendar of meetings

By decision 392 (XXXVII), of 22 March 1991, the Board inter alia agreed that the draft calendar for the second half of 1991 and the draft schedules of meetings for 1992 and 1993 should be remitted to the informal group on calendar matters.

At the first part of its thirty-eighth session, the Board will have before it a calendar for the remainder of 1991, a draft calendar for 1992 and a tentative schedule for 1993, prepared in the light of discussions in the informal group.

Documentation

TD/B/L.919 Review of the calendar of meetings

Item 9(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and budgetary implications of any proposals before it.

Item 10 OTHER BUSINESS

Any matters to be taken up under this item will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Item 11 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD

In accordance with Board decision 259 (XXV), two versions of the report of the Board are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions of the Board and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the Board's proceedings, which constitutes the Official Records of the Board's session.

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The Board will also have before it the following documentation not covered by a specific agenda item:

TD/B(XXXVIII)/CRP.2	Selective list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational, first and second regular sessions of 1991 (all languages)
TD/B(XXXVIII)/Misc.1	Checklist of documents by provisional agenda item, to be issued at the beginning of the session (English only)